Texas Investigation

WAGGONER CARR
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

SUPREME COURT BUILDING
AUSTIN 11, TEXAS

February 4, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear General:

As all of you well know, President Johnson asked that Texas hold a court inquiry following the assassination of President Kennedy. This I agreed to do and, promptly thereafter, high officials of the Department of Justice and I made joint public statements to the people of Texas assuring them that this would be a cooperative effort between the two governments.

Later, Texas agreed to postpone its Court of Inquiry until after the work of the Commission had been completed and, at the same time, accepted the previously made invitation of Chief Justice Warren to "participate in the Commission's work". There can be no doubt in your mind that Texas would have proceeded at that time with its own investigation had we not been invited to participate in the work of the Commission.

In furtherance of this mutual understanding Texas has made available to the Commission all of its records, evidence and investigation reports. We have received nothing but expressions of gratitude from you and the Chief Justice. If Texas has done anything which falls short of her commitment of mutual helpfulness, I am not aware of it nor have you or the Chief Justice mentioned it to me.

I cannot, therefore, understand why you have apparently broken your commitment to have Texas represented at the time of the examination of Lee Harvey Oswald's surviving widow. Such commitment was expressed several times by you in my presence and the presence of the special counsel.

This development raises serious doubts in my mind as to the wisdom of Texas now relying upon the original understanding that we would "participate in the Commission's work" or upon any future commitment such as the present one we relied upon that we would be invited to be present upon the interrogation of Mrs. Oswald.

If this development represents what Texas may expect in the future then we will feel relieved of our agreement to postpone further our own individual hearing.

I shall look forward to hearing from you if my reaction to this matter is not warranted.

Yours very truly,

Waggoner Carr

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WC:cr
cc: Honorable Leon Jaworski
cc: Honorable Robert G. Storey

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